



### **3.5 Seagreen Update**

P Sawers advised that Seagreen have now decided that the Carnoustie route is the only option they are going to pursue. All other routes have been discounted. It is expected that it will take one year to receive Planning Permission from Marine Scotland for the offshore part of the works. They are planning on making an onshore application to Angus Council in May (although this date is likely to be pushed back). No MET mast has been erected yet. Seagreen need 2 years data collection from this mast before they can proceed with the project. P Sawers advised that she has asked Seagreen to provide a timescale report for the director's information. She has also asked that they provide written confirmation that there would be absolutely no disruption to the course should Carnoustie be given the opportunity to host an Open Championship, and this will be submitted to the R&A. N Prentice advised that they may be able to lay down some groundwork's if they receive Planning Permission before the end of the 2 year data collection, but at their own risk as there would still be no confirmation that the project could go ahead. The plans for the cable route will be circulated to the directors, although this route is non-controversial. Seagreen would carry out all of the work over the winter (that may mean over 2 winters) and would cause minimal disruption to play. They are still awaiting approval from the MOD to put part of the cable on their ground.

### **4. Greens Business**

#### **(a) Approval of Minutes of the Greens Meeting of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Approved: L Gordon

Seconded: A McArtney

#### **(b) Matters Arising Therefrom**

Item 4 – Greenkeeping Staff Structure

J Gilbert asked for approval from the directors for the proposal put forward by the Greens Committee to implement a post of First Assistant on all three courses. This is a second stage to a report produced 3 years ago. The financial cost would be £4,200.00. The directors agreed:-

- i) To upgrade the greenkeeping staff structure to include the new position of First Assistant for each of the 3 courses.

R Reyner advised that some of the entry points of the mats on the Burnside course are loose and becoming a tripping hazard. J Gilbert advised that he would pass this on to the Greenkeeping staff.

### **5. Finance Business**

The Auditors will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> week in June.

R Reyner asked that CGLMC Ltd get competitive quotes for all insurances that the organisation has. They should be dealt with as and when they are due for renewal. R Reyner recommended that Circle Insurance be approached.

## **6. Pro-Shop Business**

### **(a) Approval of Minutes of the Pro-Shop Meeting of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013**

Approved: P Sawers

Seconded: C McLeod

### **(b) Matters Arising Therefrom**

W Thompson advised that he had met with G Murray in regards to restructuring the method of allocating costs between CGLMC Ltd and Carnoustie Links Ltd (the Pro-Shop). These figures will be discussed again at the next Finance Committee meeting and then presented to the directors in due course.

W Thompson advised that the committee are currently working on an Operations Manual for the Pro-Shop. This will take time to complete. A full version will be made available to the Directors once it is complete and a stripped down version made available to the public (removing things such as salaries, etc). This manual will work in line with a 3 year forecast for the business.

R Reyner enquired to whether the use of the whole Golf Centre will be considered. W Thompson advised that the point is to get the best value for money out of the space, therefore the whole space will be considered. The staffing will also be looked into.

A McArtney enquired to whether the Taylor Made club fitting was discussed. W Thompson advised that it was not discussed as Taylor Made have signed up all their shops up for this year. This would now not go ahead until next year. W Thompson gave an overview of the benefits of having a club fitting facility in the shop. There were issues over the staff that could be used for this service as currently there is only one person working temporarily that has the correct qualifications required by Taylor Made.

H Oswald enquired to whether other companies could be approached to find out if CGLMC Ltd can get a better deal. W Thompson advised that although nothing has been signed, the deal is as good as done with Taylor Made. They are currently seen as the No.1 club fitting service. W Thompson advised that the idea of commission from Taylor Made is only an agreement in principle and has not been confirmed.

J Gilbert advised that he was not aware that G Murray was on the Pro-Shop Committee (meaning there are 2 Carnoustie Mercantile Club members, G Murray and C Yule) and advised that he thought it was CGLMC Ltd policy to only have one club member on each sub-committee (unless it was felt that specific expertise was required). It was suggested that every club should be represented on the Pro-Shop Committee. W Thompson is to address this issue. H Oswald enquired to whether Angus Council should also be represented. She was advised that Angus Council can be on any committee, they just have to ask.

R Reyner commented that there is more discussion taking place now than there was to agree to build the Golf Centre in the first place.

R Reyner enquired to whether there was a Junior report as this is part of the Pro-Shops remit. W Thompson advised that there is no report at the moment as there is not much to report. He advised that this is being addressed in the Operations Manual and will come up with recommendations of how to deal with Junior golf in the future. It may be that this is not dealt with through the Pro-Shop or even CGLMC Ltd. It was suggested that giving the grant that CGLMC Ltd receive for Junior golf to the clubs for them to use may be the way forward. This is to be discussed further with C Sinclair.

## **7. Major Projects**

It was advised that P Sawers will arrange a meeting to review the business plan along with any other business.

## **8. Tournament Business**

A McArtney advised that a meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> August, after the Greens Committee meeting.

A McArtney extended his congratulations to F Millar and R Reyner for winning the Cant Cup. An article will be written in the Guide and Gazette covering their many wins in the tournament.

A McArtney advised the committee of the winners of the McDonald Smith trophy.

R Reyner advised that he had received lots of great feedback in regards to the brilliant condition of the course. C McLeod and P Sawers advised that they had received the same feedback. Congratulations were extended to the Greenkeeping staff.

A McArtney thanked C McLeod for his help and input during the tournaments.

The Ladies Links qualifying is on Sunday 19 May 2013.

## **9. PR Business – Social Media Report**

L Gordon advised that she had written an article for the newspaper that was published last week. She advised that it was written up in bullet points expecting it to be re-written for the article but it was not and therefore apologised for the way in which it was published. She advised that in future, the plan is to produce an article quarterly advising of all of the good work that is being carried out at CGLMC Ltd.

L Gordon advised that she and C McLeod had met with GMS to discuss general PR and Social Media. She advised that she was at first sceptical of the idea of introducing CGLMC Ltd onto Twitter, but GMS were persuasive of its advantages. C McLeod gave an overview of the features and advantages of using Twitter. It was advised that there is little expectation that people would use Twitter to complain, as they are limited to 140 characters. L Gordon and C McLeod are to monitor the social media.

### **10. Season Ticket Business**

A McArtney advised that he is aware of a player in the Teymouth club that holds a Buddon Links Season Ticket and therefore has to pay an upgrade every time a club match is played on the Burnside and Championship course. He advised that this player had to spend around £400.00 on upgrades this year. P Sawers advised that there are many people in this situation. W Thompson, J McLeish and C McLeod are currently looking at ways to produce movement on the waiting lists. W Thompson suggested that if the Burnside course is closed, players should be given an upgrade to the Championship course for the price of the Burnside. A McArtney suggested that the upgrades are expensive. J Gilbert suggested that as the spring and autumn meetings are permanent fixtures in the calendar, they should be offered to the club members free (no upgrade costs). This item will be taken to the Season Ticket committee for further discussions.

### **11. Environment Business**

J Gilbert advised that Dr Bob Taylor is currently reviewing the courses. He will produce a report and it will be issue to the Committee next month.

### **12. Golf Services Managers Report**

- There have been 10 players moved off the 3 course 7 day ticket waiting list.
- 27 people have moved off the 2 course 7 day ticket waiting list. On average, they have waited 7 years for their ticket.
- The Buddon Links waiting list has been cleared.
- 24 people have been moved off the 3 course 5 day ticket waiting list.
- 25 people have been moved off the 2 course 5 day ticket waiting list.

R Reyner asked for this list to be issued to the clubs.

C McLeod advised that he had received thanks from the Northern Ladies for CGLMC Ltd accommodating them last month.

C McLeod presented his new proposal for the Ryder Cup week in 2014. He advised that he would like to accommodate the Tour Operators as they bring a large amount of business to CGLMC Ltd. W Thompson advised that CGLMC Ltd need to come up with a plan to bring players in when St Andrews is closed. Discussions were held over the recommendation to sell members times in the morning and at lunch time during this week. After further discussions, J Gilbert proposed that no member's times be sold to visitors during this week but twilight rates should go ahead. This was seconded by A McArtney.

R Reyner then proposed that members times between 8.30am and 9.00am be sold for the Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - not Tuesdays (as these times are usually booked up), and that no lunch times be made available, apart from potentially the Thursday, which could be reviewed. This was seconded by C Yule.

The committee voted as below:

J Gilbert proposal – 3 votes

R Reyner proposal – 6 votes

The committee then agreed to discuss the Thursday situation. R Reyner proposed that all lunch time slots be made available to members, but if the times are not used by members, they be made available to visitors on the day. This was seconded by P Sawers and agreed by the committee.

The directors therefore agreed:-

- i) that during the week of the Ryder cup 2014, which is 22nd -28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014, visitor times on the Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will commence at 08.30 am. Visitors can also access lunch time slots after the ballot is drawn and there will also be a twilight option from 3.00 – 3.50pm.

#### Head Ranger Retiral

C McLeod advised that the Head Ranger is due to retire this year. He advised that he has produced a report with recommends for the way forward. He suggested that he would like to propose Option 1 to the Committee - that from now on, CGLMC Ltd employs 2 seasonal staff, rather than one Head Ranger. This would give more flexibility, would cost less and would mean that the Rangers would report to C McLeod as opposed to a Head Ranger.

W Thompson enquired to whether some of the Starters that were not given new contracts could take on these roles. He was advised that this would not be possible as the shifts would clash. After discussions, the directors agreed

- i) To move forward with the Golf Services Manager's Option 1 recommendation.

**13. Performance Indicators**

J Gilbert suggested that it was unfair that the performance indicator should go to amber because one complaint was received from a player who thought the course should have been closed when it was open. It was advised that this is only a way of recording complaints, and does not suggest that CGLMC Ltd are necessarily doing badly in this field. W Thompson advised that there are different ways in which complaints can be logged, depending on how the business wants to log them.

**14. Companies House Matters**

There were none.

**15. Health and Safety Report**

There were no matters.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 2030 hours.

KS